REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-17 are presented for examination.

These claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing the subject matter which was not described in the specification.

In particular, the Examiner takes the position that the limitation "said data packet is not received from said another switching device" in claims 2 and 11 is not supported in the specification.

This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 2 recites a data communication system comprising:

-multiple switching devices for switching data packets, and

-an expansion bus for transferring the data packets between the switching devices;

each switching device having an address processing block for comparing destination address information of a received data packet with current address information, and producing a match signal supplied to another switching device when the destination address information matches the current information,

wherein **said data packet is not received from said another switching device**, and

the match signal informs said another switching device that the destination address information that causes the match signal is associated with the switching device that generates the match signal.

Claim 11 recites a method of data switching in a data switching system having multiple switching devices. The method comprises the steps of:

-comparing destination address information of a received data packet with first current address information maintained by a first switching device, and

-supplying a match signal to a second switching device when the destination address information matches the first current address information,

wherein **said data packet is not received from the second switching device**, and

the match signal informs the second switching device that the destination address information that causes the match signal is associated with the first switching device that generates the match signal.

Hence, the subject matter of the claims relate to a data switching system having first and second switching devices. When a first switching device receives a data packet, it compares the packet's destination address information with a current address information and produces a match signal supplied to the second switching device when the destination address information matches the first current address information.

The claims specify that the data packet is not received by the second switching device.

As demonstrated below, the disclosure is sufficient to enable those skilled in the art of data communications to practice the claimed invention.

As shown in FIG. 1 of the application and disclosed on pages 4-6 of the specification, the data switching system includes multiple switching devices 12a, 12b, 12c. Each of the

switching devices 12 is coupled to respective network stations 14 for receiving and transmitting data from and to the network stations 14.

The specification indicates that "each 10/100 Mb/s network station 14 sends and receives data frames to and from the corresponding switching device 12 via a media 20" (page 4, lines 19-20).

Accordingly, one skilled in the art would understand from the specification and the drawings that the first switching device of claims 2 and 11 receives data packets from one of the network stations coupled to the first switching device.

Hence, the specification clearly supports the limitation of claims 2 and 11 that the data packet received by the first switching device is not received from the second (or another) switching device.

Further, the specification discloses that "when the switching device 12 determines that the DA information of a received frame matches the address information stored in its address table, it asserts a match signal associated with the corresponding DA information. The match signal is supplied to other switching devices 12 in the switching unit to notify them that the corresponding DA address information is associated with the switching device 12 that originates the match signal. Thus, the other switching devices 12 in the switching unit are informed that the host with the respective DA address information is not connected to one of their own media ports." (page 5, lines 17-26).

Hence, the specification supports the claimed subject matter indicating that the match signal produced by the first switching device is supplied to the second (or another) switching device, which does not sent the packet received by the first switching device.

Accordingly, the specification provides sufficient disclosure to enable one skilled in the art of the data communications to make and use the claimed data switching system having first and second switching devices, in which the first switching device receives a data packet, which is not sent by the second switching device, to produce the matching signal sent to the second switching device when the destination address information of the packet matches the current address information maintained by the first switching device.

Further, it well settled that while the specification must enable a person skilled in the art to which the invention pertains to make and use the invention, it must avoid material exceeding what is sufficient or necessary. Thus, the description need not contain what is well known and in common use by those skilled in the art. In determining the certainty required [of the disclosure], it cannot be forgotten that the disclosure is not addressed to the public generally, but to those skilled in the art. In re Storrs, 245 F.2d 474, 478, 114 U.S.P.Q. 293, 296-97 (C.C.P.A. 1957). Because the disclosure is sufficient if it enables those skilled in the art to practice the claimed invention, there is no need to disclose what is well-known in the art. In re Myers, 410 F.2d 420, 161 U.S.P.Q. 668 (C.C.P.A. 1969).

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the specification fully supports the invention in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2-9 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is improper and should be withdrawn.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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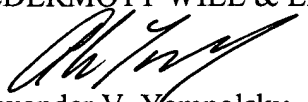

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